

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-3 are amended merely for cosmetic purposes, i.e., punctuation, and to address the basis of a rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and Claims 4-15 are added. Applicants respectfully submit no new material is presented herein.

Specification

The Specification is amended herein so the written description corresponds with the invention illustrated in originally filed drawing Figure 1.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC §112

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. The claims have been amended responsive to the rejection. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-15 Recite Patentable Subject Matter

Claim 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,110,216 to Weber et al. (hereinafter “Weber”) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2001/0016803 to Sartiono et al. (hereinafter “Sartiono”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for being improper.

In particular, Applicants respectfully note the Office Action admits Weber does not teach a three-dimensional CAM model being prepared. Claims 1-3 each recite a method having a step wherein a three-dimensional CAM is prepared. The Office Action applies Sartiono for teaching a method having a step where a three-dimensional CAM model is prepared. However, Applicants respectfully submit Sartiono is not prior art. Specifically, the instant application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application

2000-283603, which was filed on September 19, 2000, nearly ten weeks before Sartiono was filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As such, Applicants respectfully submit Sartiono is not proper prior art and cannot be used or cited to overcome the admitted drawbacks of Weber. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 1-3 are not obvious in view of Weber since the Office Action admits Weber fails to teach or suggest a feature recited by each of Claims 1-3. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit Claims 1-3 are not obvious in view of Weber and should be deemed allowable.

Claims 4-12 depend from Claims 1-3. It is respectfully submitted that these nine (9) dependent claims be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claims 1-3 are allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of Claims 1-15, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 106145-00034.**

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Amendment and Fee Transmittal